

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination based upon map data that include road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating conditions with which the roads connect with one another;

extracting map data over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route from the map data;

making a decision as to whether or not the road connection information is to be eliminated from the extracted map data; and

transmitting map data obtained by eliminating the road connection information from the extracted map data if results of the decision indicate that the road connection information is to be eliminated.

2. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 1, wherein:

geographical conditions are set for the map data; and

the decision as to whether or not the road connection information is to be eliminated from the extracted map data is made by deciding whether or not the map data satisfy the geographical conditions having been set.

3. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein:

the geographical conditions include an urban area; and
a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the extracted map data are not corresponding to the urban area.

4. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, wherein:

the geographical conditions include an area with good GPS reception; and
a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the extracted map data are corresponding to the area with good GPS reception.

5. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, wherein:

if the extracted map data include road data related to a road which does not connect with the recommended route, a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information corresponding to the road data.

6. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein:

a distance from the current position to the destination on the determined recommended route is calculated;

a total data size of the extracted map data is estimated based upon the calculated distance; and

a decision is made to eliminate the road connection information if the estimated total data size is greater than a predetermined value.

7. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 6~~ claim 1, wherein:

information indicating that the road connection information has been eliminated is attached to the transmitted map data.

8. (original) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination based upon map data that include road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating conditions with which the roads connect with one another;

extracting from the map data map data over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route;

making a decision as to whether or not part of the road shape information is to be eliminated from the extracted map data; and

transmitting map data obtained by eliminating part of the road shape information from the extracted map data if results of the decision indicate that part of the road shape information is to be eliminated.

9. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 8, wherein:

if the extracted map data include road data related to a road which does not connect with the recommended route, a decision is made to eliminate part of the road shape information corresponding to the road data.

10. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 8 ~~or claim 9~~, wherein:

a decision is made to eliminate part of the road shape information included in map data except for map data corresponding to a portion of recommended route which is located on an approaching side to a guidance point on the determined recommended route and within a predetermined distance from the guidance point.

11. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 8 through 10~~ claim 8, wherein:

a distance from the current position to the destination on the determined recommended route is calculated;

a total data size of the extracted map data is estimated based upon the calculated distance; and

a decision is made to eliminate part of the road shape information if the estimated total data size is greater than a predetermined value.

12. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 8 through 11~~ claim 8, wherein:

information indicating that part of the road shape information has been eliminated is attached to the transmitted map data.

13. (currently amended) An information distribution apparatus that executes a map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 1 through 12~~ claim 1.

14. (currently amended) An information terminal at which a map is displayed by using map data transmitted from an information distribution apparatus according to claim 13, comprising:

a reception ~~means for receiving~~ device that receives the map data; and

a display ~~means for displaying~~ device that displays map data corresponding to the recommended route and map data contained within a specific distance from the recommended route based upon the received map data.

15. (original) A map data transmission method comprising:

determining a recommended route extending from a current position to a destination based upon map data that include road map data, which contain road shape information indicating shapes of roads and road connection information indicating condition with which the roads connect with one another, and facility data;

extracting road map data over a slicing range set within a predetermined distance from the determined recommended route and also extracting facility data of a facility satisfying a specific requirement from facility data in an area beyond the slicing range based upon the map data; and

transmitting, at least, the road map data extracted over the slicing range, the facility data extracted beyond the slicing range and map data corresponding to a road connecting with the facility.

16. (original) A map data transmission method according to claim 15, wherein:

the road connecting with the facility is an access road connecting the recommended route with the facility and also a return road connecting the facility with the recommended route.

17. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to claim 15 ~~or claim 16~~, wherein:

the facility data of a facility satisfying the specific requirement are data related to a specific type of facility that a user is likely to wish to use while traveling on the recommended route at a specific estimated time point.

18. (currently amended) A map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 15 through 17~~ claim 15, wherein:

the specific requirement satisfied by the facility data is an estimated traveling distance, an estimated time point or an estimated geographical position at which a remaining fuel quantity becomes equal to or smaller than a predetermined value while traveling on the recommended route and the facility data extracted when the requirement is satisfied relate to a refueling facility.

19. (currently amended) An information terminal at which a map is displayed by using map data transmitted by adopting a map data transmission method according to ~~any of claims 15 through 18~~ claim 15, comprising:

a reception ~~means for receiving~~ device that receives the map data; and

a display ~~means for displaying~~ device that displays road map data within a slicing range containing the recommended route and ranging within a predetermined distance from the recommended route and a facility mark corresponding to extracted facility data based upon the received map data.

20. (new) An information distribution apparatus that executes a map data transmission method according to claim 8.